Expansion of DD network

81. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken for expansion of the network of Doordarshan in the non-affluent areas;

(b) how many studio projects, besides other development work, will be completed during die current financial year;

(c) the reasons for delay in developing the infrastructure;

(d) whether non-fixation of any target is causing any delay in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Presently, Doordarshan network comprises 55 studios and 1227 transmitters of varying powers. For further expansion of Doordarshan network, 9 studio projects and 229 transmitter projects are presently under implementation.

(b) Four studio projects at Chandigarh, Dehradun, Mathura and Trichur have been commissioned during the current financial year and two studio projects at Patiala and Leh are technically ready for commissioning. Installation of 2 additional studio projects at Gangtok and Calicut is expected to be completed during the remaining period of current financial year.

(c) to (e) Generally, Doordarshan projects are completed within specified target dates. However, occasional delays occur due to reasons like delay in availability of suitable sites and other infrastnictural facilities and contractual problems.

DD news channel

† 82. SHRI RAMA SHANKERKAUSHIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for Government's hesitation to take action against the officer responsible for miserable condition of Doordarshan's news channel;

(b) whether appointment of present Director-General of Doordarshan's

† Original notice of die question was received in Hindi.